

## WE CLAIM

- 1           1. An expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion of the  
2     region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product wherein said vector further  
3     comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression  
4     of said exogenous DNA.
- 1           2. The expression vector of claim 1 wherein said exogenous DNA encodes an  
2     antigen.
- 1           3. The expression vector of claim 1 in which one or more non-essential virus-  
2     encoded gene functions have been deleted from the vaccinia virus.
- 1           4. A composition comprising the expression vector of claim 1 and a carrier.
- 1           5. A method of making a recombinant gene product comprising subjecting an  
2     expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion of the region encoding  
3     amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product and wherein said vector further comprises  
4     exogenous DNA that encodes said recombinant gene product operably linked to regulatory  
5     elements that control expression thereof, to conditions whereby said recombinant gene  
6     product is expressed.
- 1           6. The method of claim 5 further comprising recovering said recombinant gene  
2     product.